

GOLF CART CLUB BAG PROTECTION DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to golf cart club bag covers, more specifically, a golf cart club bag protection device having a folding canopy which allows other accessories, such as coolers and sand bottles, to be mounted underneath the device.

The use of golf carts has become commonplace in the game of golf. Golf carts have not only permitted golfers to get to the next hole quicker, but have also allowed golfers to bring along more items to the course to make the game more enjoyable, such as more clubs, tees, golf balls, beverages, sand bottles and the like. The golfers simply place the items in the back of the golf cart and drive the cart from hole to hole, enjoying the game of golf.

However, a perfect golfing day can quickly change into an imperfect day when inclement weather occurs. Although most golf carts have roofs which provide some shelter from rain for the players, all of the items in the back of the golf car are susceptible to being rained upon. The rain could not only damage the items in the back of the cart, but it could also ruin them altogether as well. This is especially unfortunate when the items ruined includes expensive golf clubs.

However, in order to protect these items, golf cart club bag protection devices have been created. Currently, there many golf cart club bag cover protection devices

in use. However, major disadvantages to using the current devices is that they either must be attached to the golf cart roof, are difficult to use or impede the amount of storage space beneath the cover. In addition, many of the currently used cover devices require some sort of modification or alteration to the golf cart in order to secure the
5 cover device to it. Not only is this difficult, but it could also affect the aesthetic appearance of the golf cart.

Thus, the need for a golf cart club bag protection device which has an easy to use folding canopy which allows other accessories to be mounted underneath the cover and does not require modification to the golf cart is needed.

10 The relevant prior art includes the following patents:

| <u>Patent No.</u> (U.S. unless stated otherwise) | <u>Inventor</u> | <u>Issue Date</u> |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|
| 6,663,161 | Tyrer | 12-16-2003 |
| 6,663,162 | Tyrer | 12-16-2003 |
| 15 6,416,109 | Tyrer <i>et al.</i> | 07-09-2002 |
| 6,601,904 | Winkler | 08-05-2003 |
| 6,547,312 | Winkler | 04-15-2003 |
| 6,481,780 | Dolan <i>et al.</i> | 11-19-2002 |
| 6,227,217 | Peta | 05-08-2001 |
| 20 4,830,037 | Held | 05-16-1989 |
| 6,220,647 | Winkler | 04-24-2001 |
| 208,564 | Bowers | 10-01-1878 |
| 5,069,481 | Strange | 12-03-1991 |
| 6,227,603 | Brock | 05-08-2001 |
| 25 6,076,206 | Celaya | 06-20-2000 |
| 5,688,018 | Simpson | 11-18-1997 |
| 6,216,714 | Tucker | 04-17-2001 |

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Weston

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Although the above patents teach various types of golf cart club bag protection devices, none teach a golf cart club bag protection device designed to have a folding
5 canopy which allows other accessories, such as coolers and sand bottles, to be mounted underneath the cover.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that has a folding canopy.

10 A further object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that allows other accessories, such as coolers and sand bottles, to be mounted underneath the cover.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that is easy to use.

15 A further object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that is durable.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that is easy to attach to a golf cart.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a golf cart club bag protection device that can be attached to a golf cart without altering or modifying the golf cart.

The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing a golf
5 cart club bag protection device comprised of four components: a securing frame, an attachment bar, canopy support bars and a canopy. The securing frame is shaped so as to have two vertical legs and a horizontal top bar. An attachment bar is attached to the vertical legs at a predetermined distance above the base of the legs. The attachment bar has a unique shape so as to raise the pivotal point of the device to allow
10 more items to be mounted in a golf cart storage area. Tabs are located at the base of the legs wherein the support bars are pivotally attached to the securing frame. The bottom of the attachment bar has two C-shaped clamps which are used to secure the securing frame to the golf cart bag holder. The securing frame, attachment bar and canopy support bars are made of a rigid and durable material, preferably steel, so as
15 to withstand rain and other outdoor elements, such as wind and hail, without affecting the structure of the securing frame and bars. The top of the securing frame has a canopy holder which holds the canopy to the securing frame. The canopy, preferably made of a waterproof material, is attached to the canopy support bars and is removably attached to the legs of the securing frame by using fastening means, preferably hook

and loop type fastening material. The canopy holder also contains a canopy flap and a canopy fastener to allow the user to keep the golf cart club bag protection device in an upright position.

To use the present invention, the user first takes the securing frame and
5 positions the C-shaped clamps around the golf bag support bar so the legs of the securing frame are flush with the golf cart support bar. The user then inserts a long bolt into the holes located on the C-shaped clamps and uses threaded nuts and bolts to secure the securing frame onto the golf bag support bar. The user then takes the sides of the canopy and fastens each side to the securing frame by using a fastening
10 means, such as hook and loop type fastening material. When the user desires the canopy to be down, he or she simply grabs the bottom canopy support bar and pulls downward. To raise the canopy, the user simply pushes the bottom canopy support bar upwards. In addition, the user can keep the canopy in an upright position by using the canopy flap and canopy fasteners. The flap has a fastening means, preferably
15 snaps, while the canopy fasteners have the corresponding fastening means. While the canopy support bars are in the upright position, the user positions the canopy flap so it is extending away from the securing frame. The user then takes the canopy fasteners and matches the fastening means on the fasteners to the fastening means on the flap.

Because the frame is constructed so as to freely stand against the cart support bar, no modifications to the golf cart are necessary for the installation of the present invention. In addition, because the pivoting point of the canopy support bars are located at a distance above attachment area, more room is available in the golf cart storage area for other items, such as coolers and/or sand bottles, to be mounted.

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following detailed description, reference will be made to the attached drawings in which:

FIG. 1 is a frontal view of the golf cart club bag protection device of the present invention;

15 **FIG. 2** is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 3 is upwardly-looking view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

FIG. 4 is a side view of the leg of the securing frame of the present invention without a canopy;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 4** with a canopy;

FIG. 6 is a cut-away view along the lines 6-6 of the embodiment of **FIG. 1**;

5 **FIG. 7** is a side view of the present invention when compressed;

FIG. 8 is a side view of the canopy holder of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of the present invention secured to a golf cart; and

FIG. 10 is a side view of the present invention secured to a golf cart.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

10 For purposes of describing the preferred embodiment, the terminology used in reference to the numbered components in the drawings is as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1. | securing frame | 13. | canopy flap |
| 2. | middle canopy support bar | 14. | rod |
| 3. | bottom canopy support bar | 15. | canopy fastener |
| 15 4. | canopy top edge | 16. | canopy side |
| 5. | canopy bottom edge | 17. | golf cart support bar |
| 6. | C-shaped clamp | 18. | golf bag support bar |
| 7. | bolt | 19. | storage area |
| 8. | frame structure tab | 20. | golf cart seat |
| 20 9. | nut | 21. | legs |
| 10. | fastening means | 22. | attachment bar |
| 11. | canopy holder | 23. | horizontal top bar |
| 12. | hole | | |

With reference to **FIG. 1**, a frontal view of the golf cart club bag protection device of the present invention is shown. The golf cart club bag protection device has a securing frame **1**, an attachment bar **22**, canopy support bars **2** and **3** and a canopy with a top edge **4**, a rear edge **5** and two sides **16**. The securing frame **1** has a canopy holder **11**, a horizontal top bar **23** and two legs **21** which extend downward. The attachment bar **22** is affixed to the inner legs **21** of the securing frame **1** at a predetermined distance above the ends of the legs **21**. From the attachment point with the legs **21**, the attachment bar **22** extends inward towards the center line of the protection device on both sides to a predetermined length wherein the attachment bar **22** then turns downward, preferably at a ninety degree angle. The attachment bar **22** then extends away from the securing frame **1**, preferably at a ninety degree angle, so the attachment bar **22** is now parallel to the ground. The attachment bar **22** then has one more ninety degree angle turn wherein each end of the attachment bar **22** then connects with one another to form one continuous attachment bar **22**. At the base of the attachment bar **22** are two C-shaped clamps **6** which are sized slightly larger than the height of a standard golf bag support. A bolt head **7** indicates the pivoting point of the middle support bar **2** and bottom support bar **3**. A canopy top edge **4** covers the space between the securing frame **1** and the middle canopy support bar **2** while a canopy rear edge **5** covers the space between the middle canopy support bar **2** and the

bottom canopy support bar 3. Preferably, only the canopy rear edge 5 is transparent so as to allow the user to have rear view through the back of the golf cart. The canopy top edge 4 is preferably opaque so as prevent the golf clubs from being exposed to sun's rays. Although the present invention is shown with only one middle canopy support bar 2, the present invention could be utilized with a plurality of middle canopy support bars added thereto. It is to be understood that the canopy top edge 4 will cover the exposed portions located between the securing frame 1 and the middle canopy support bars while the canopy rear edge 5 will cover the exposed portions located between the bottom canopy support bar 3 and the nearest middle canopy support bar.

With reference to **FIG. 2**, a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. The canopy holder 11 is C-shaped and holds the rod 14. The rod 14, in turn, has attached to it the canopy flap 13, the canopy sides 16, the canopy top edge 4 and the canopy rear edge 5. The side canopy 16 covers the lateral spaces between the legs of the securing frame 21, the middle canopy support bar 2 and the bottom canopy support bar 3 without covering the bolt head 7. The bolt head 7 indicates the area where the tab 8 located on the legs of the securing frame 21, the middle canopy support bar 2 and the bottom canopy support bar 3 are pivotally attached to one another.

In **FIG. 3**, an upwardly-looking view of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown.

The attachment bar **22** has C-shaped clamps **6** for securing the golf cart club bag protection device to a golf cart. Canopy fasteners **15** are attached to the rod **14**, which wherein the rod **14** is then inserted into the canopy holder **11** on the securing frame **1**.

5 Frame structure tabs **8** are located on both legs **21**. To pivotally attach the canopy support bars **2** and **3** to the securing frame **1**, a nut and bolt **7** and **9** are used. From the inner portion of the golf cart club bag protection device extending outward, the bottom canopy support bar **3**, the frame structure tab **8** and the middle canopy support bar **2** are joined together by the nut and bolt **7** and **9** to give the device its pivotal nature.

10 In **FIG. 4**, the leg of the securing frame of the present invention without a canopy or canopy support bars is shown. The leg **21** has a fastening means **10**, preferably hook and loop type fastening material, attached thereto along its side and a C-shaped canopy holder **11** located at the top of the leg **21**. The leg **21** also has frame structure tab **8** located at the bottom and extending away from the leg **21**. The
15 attachment bar **22** extends below the leg **21** and has located thereupon a C-shaped clamp **6**. The C-shaped clamp **6** allows for the securing of the present invention to the golf bag support bar **18** located on golf carts. The hole **12** in the frame structure tab **12** indicates where a nut **9** and bolt **7** would be used to act as the pivoting point of the device. The pivoting point is located at a predetermined distance above the C-shaped

clamp 6 so as to yield more room for storage underneath the device as compared to current golf club cart canopies.

With reference to **FIG. 5**, a side view of the embodiment of **FIG. 4** with a canopy is shown. The canopy holder 11 accommodates a rod 14 wherein attached is a canopy flap 13, the canopy sides 16, the top canopy 4 and rear canopy 5. Along the inside of the canopy side 16 is a fastening means 10 to affix the canopy side 16 to corresponding fastening means 10 located on the leg 21 of the securing frame 1. Preferably, the securing means are hook and loop type fastening material.

In **FIG. 6**, a cut-away view along the lines 6-6 of the embodiment of **FIG. 1** is shown. Canopy fasteners 15 extend from the canopy holder 11 and have a fastening means, preferably snaps, located thereupon. A nut 9 and bolt 7 keeps the frame structure tab 8, middle support bar 2 and bottom support bar 3 together in a pivotal nature.

With reference to **FIG. 7**, a side view of the present invention when upright is shown. The middle canopy support bar 2 and bottom canopy support bar 3 are vertical when the canopy flap 13 is placed around the bars 2 and 3. The canopy fasteners 15 are then placed around the canopy support bars 2 and 3 and secured to the canopy flap 13 by using the fastening means, preferably snaps.

In **FIG. 8**, a side view of the canopy holder of the present invention is shown.

The canopy holder **11** is C-shaped and is sized to accommodate a rod **14**. The rod **14** has attached to it a canopy flap **13**, canopy fasteners **15** and the top canopy **4**, rear canopy **5** and side canopy **16**, although only the side canopy **16** is shown.

In **FIG. 9**, a perspective view of the present invention secured to a golf cart is shown. The golf cart has two golf cart support bars **17**, a golf bag support bar **18** and a storage area **19**. The golf cart club bag protection device is designed so as the legs **21** of the securing frame **1** are flush against the golf cart support bars **17** when the C-shaped clamps **6** are secured to the golf support bar **18**. Thus, there is no need to secure the golf cart club bag protection device to the roof of the golf cart or, in fact, make any alterations to the golf cart.

Finally, with reference to **FIG. 10**, a side view of the present invention secured to a golf cart is shown. When the present invention is installed on a golf cart, the canopy holder **11** and legs **21** are flush against the golf cart roof and golf cart support bars **17**, respectively, thus, making it difficult for rainwater to enter the storage area **19**. The C-shaped clamps **6** secure to the golf bag support bar **18** by using bolts **7**.

The use of the present invention will allow users to mount other accessories, such as coolers and sand bottles, beneath a canopy cover which acts as a protective cover from wind, rain, sun and other elements of nature.

It is to be understood that while a certain form of the invention is illustrated, it is not to be limited to the specific form or arrangement of parts herein described and shown. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention and the invention is not be
5 considered limited to what is shown and described in the specification and drawings.